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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In paragraph 5 of the office action, claims 1, 4, 10, 11, 14, 20, 21, 23, 31, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Appelman et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,539,421 (hereinafter Appelman). The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the present invention, messaging clients are connected to a publish/subscribe server. A first user publishes a message to a group of which any number (including zero) might be listening. The first user is typically communicating to a group, which may include one listener or even no listeners who are unknown to the first user (see paragraph [0054]). When a second user receives and chooses to respond to the message from the first user, the first user's message is transmitted back to the first user (paragraph [0088]) to ensure context to the second users reply (paragraph [0066]). The first user does not address the message to a second user, and does not even know the identity or address of the second user (paragraph [0054]).

Appelman describes an instant messaging client interface. This is a fundamental component to instant messaging and is an example of the prior art before the present claimed invention. Appelman discloses that one user can send messages to another known user - or users. In Appelman, a first user needs to know the ID of the second user in order to chat with them. In a chat room scenario, a user joins the chat room and might not know the users, but once entered is aware of any user ID in the chat. Appelman does not describe anything about using broadcast messaging where there is no knowledge at the time of sending a message, the identities of the recipients. Appelman does not

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describe the idea that the response to a message would automatically include the initial inquiry/message as context.

Independent claims 1, 10, 11, 20, and 21 have been amended to make clear that the second user is unknown to the first user, and that the message to be published is not addressed to the second user. In Appelman, each message from the first user to the second user includes an address which directs the message to the second user. For instance, in Col. 4, lines 36-37: ". . . the user enters a message 16 having an address 18 for whom the message 16 is intended . . ." Also at Col. 5, lines 33: "if a message is being addressed to the second user." Much of Appelman is directed to how an address is constructed to a recipient by the fewest keystrokes possible so as to auto-complete a partially entered address based on a subset of potential message recipients (see the abstract).

As per claims 1, 11, and 21, these claims has been amended to make clear that the first message in included in the second message to provide context to the second message. It is submitted that the language pointed out by the examiner at Col. 9 lines 43-67 does not teach or suggest that the second message from the second user to the first user includes the first message to provide context for the second message, as claimed. As shown in FIGs. 15 and 16 and explained at Col. 9, the message 632 from the sender to the receiver includes a message body 638, and the recipient of the message 632 sends a responsive message 646 to the user which also includes a message body 654. There is no teaching or suggestion in Appelman that the message 648 includes the message body 638 to provide context for the second message as claimed.

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As per claims 10 and 20, these claims have been amended to make clear that even when the first message is presented to the second client, the second client remains unknown to the first client.

It is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 10, 11, 20, and 21, and claims depended therefrom are allowable over Appelman, which allowance is respectfully requested.

At paragraph 6 of the office action, claims 2-3, 5-9, 12-13, 15-19, 22, 24-30, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Appelman U.S. Patent No. 6,539,421 (hereinafter Appelman) in view of Kapil et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,941,345 (hereinafter Kapil). The rejection is hereby traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Kapil discloses bridging disparate communities. In the present invention, a single community is disclosed having sub-communities. They are communities only in that we need a way for people who want to listen to know which topic to listen to (e.g. Channel A vs. Gourmet Cooking).

Kapil is another example of the prior art before the present invention. If Appelman and Kapil were combined, as suggested by the examiner, a system would result providing a user interface for the messages flowing between disparate communities. Appelman could be used to provide an interface for sending and receiving those messages. It is respectfully submitted that neither Appelman nor Kapil, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the function of the present invention as claimed.

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As per claim 6, claim 6 has been amended to make clear that subscribers are unknown to the first user and are authenticated and authorized by the pub/sub server while the subscribers remain unknown to the first user. In Appelman, the first user must know the second user because all messages between the users are addressed to the other party.

Claims 3, 6, 13, 16, 25, 29, and 30 have been amended to make clear that the subscribing of the clients is authenticated and authorized by the publish/subscribe server. This is set forth in paragraph [0080] of the application. Claims 3, 6, 13, and 16 claim that the subscribing of a user is unknown to the other users. In Appelman, each user must add the other to its own buddy list before instant messaging can be established since each message must be addressed to a recipient. Further, independent claims 6, 16, 25, and 29 have been amended to make clear that subscribers (claim 6, 16, and 25) or the second client (claim 29) are unknown to the first user (claims 6, 16, and 25) or first client (claim 29). In Appelman, all messages must be addressed to a recipient, and in Kapil, communications cannot take place until a communication link is established. If communications is not possible (such as user B does not exist), a rejection indication is sent to the contact (see Col. 4, lines 42-44).
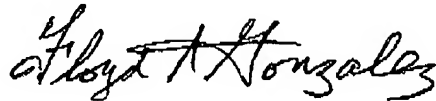
It is submitted that claims 2-3, 5-9, 12-13, 15-19, 22, 24-30, and 32 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Appelman in view of Kapil, which allowance is respectfully requested.

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It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

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